

From: Rick Borie
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/18/02 8:46pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I intend to read the available information regarding the case and follow up this email when I can get some time. However, being a Macintosh fan I'd like to express my opinion based on my experience over the past decade or so as a Systems Administrator. First, Microsoft doesn't innovate -- they copy existing technologies and then put them in Windows. They modify Windows occasionally so competitors software won't work as well or not at all. (Ex. Apple's QuickTime, Sun's Java) In short, they don't compete. They just find a way when possible to crush their competitors. Normally with their mediocre version of the product. Their latest proposal to satisfy this case (donating systems, software, etc. to schools) is just one example among countless other that shows their arrogance and unethical way of doing business. This was so obvious I think a 4 year could see right through it.

I firmly believe that the computer industry as a whole would have advanced much more quickly without Microsoft's illegal practices. I also believe they will continue to do business this way unless this settlement forces them not to. I believe the settlement needs to make so that Microsoft only gains when they develop a better product than the competition. We all lose when the only game in town is Microsoft.

I don't think the government should use Windows at all. I believe for all of the obvious reasons the government should use Linux almost exclusively. If they need to run Windows applications they can use a Windows emulator that runs on Linux. Let's face it, Linux is cheaper, faster, more secure, more customizable, comes with more applications, works and looks like Windows and wouldn't force the government to be tied in any way to Microsoft.

I realize none of this is news to anyone familiar with the case but, I just feel better knowing I did something about something that is so obviously wrong. If anyone actually gets to read this, thanks.

Here's hoping for a level playing ground,
Rick Borie
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P.S. I'm sending this on Mac Cube with OS X and no Microsoft software was used.